

Envelope Series

A QUARTERLY

Vol. LVI

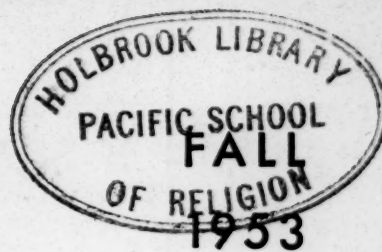
No. 3

YOUR CHURCH AND THE WORLD TASK

By Ione Catton

A Six Session Study Course
for Congregational Christian Churches

A MAGAZINE FOR
The Missionary Education Committee of Your Church



ENVELOPE SERIES

Issued by

The Committee on Missionary Education in the Local Church of the
Missions Council of Congregational Christian Churches

Editor: Ruth Isabel Seabury, Educational Secretary

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Entered as second class matter at the Post Office at Boston, Mass. Acceptance for mailing at special rates of postage provided for in section 1104, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on June 21, 1918. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. Printed in U. S. A. Annual subscription, fifty (50) cents.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READER:

We are glad to welcome Ione Catton, Program Secretary of our Missions Council,* as Guest Editor for this issue of ENVELOPE SERIES. As someone in an audience not long ago said of her, "Miss Catton is always practical and knows just what we need." No member of the Missions Council staff is better fitted to offer practical help to the churches by the nature of her own experience. First, a high school teacher; then a settlement house director; then with experience in a local church as Minister of Religious Education; as Director of Christian Education for the State Council of Churches of Michigan; and, for nine years, Research Associate of the Missions Council with an opportunity to see the work of the Home Board especially, at first hand, she has a rich background.

Ione Catton was born in Benzonia, Michigan, took her B.A. at the University of Wisconsin, M.A. at Boston University and Columbia. For many years she helped to direct summer camps and conferences and has always worked closely in the ecumenical movement, especially with the International Council of Religious Education. This very spring, Olivet College in Michigan conferred upon her the honorary degree of Doctor of Religious Education.

By vote of the Committee on Missionary Education in the Local Church, we are offering hopefully this Course which Miss Catton was asked to prepare. It is so simple and so easily adjusted to local situations that we have high hopes for its extended use in our churches. We hope too that the device of the Courtesy Report (see page 31) will give us more indication than we usually receive of just *where* it is being used and *how*. With an extra push by all concerned for Missionary Education,

* With headquarters in Chicago.

this outline, we feel, should be extremely useful in creating a well informed, enthusiastic church. All departments of the Missions Council will be glad to help in making it a vital experience.

Yours for a church year of deepening insight,

RUTH ISABEL SEABURY

Boston, Massachusetts,
August 31, 1953

A MESSAGE FROM THE GUEST EDITOR

DEAR FRIENDS:

Over and over again we are being told lately, "it is time that Protestant people knew what they believed." It is heartening to see how many of our churches are forming study groups and get-togethers to learn more about the Christian faith and the interpretation given by their own denominational fellowship.

Just as urgently we are being told, "it is time every church member knew what his church really is in its fullest sense, and what it does, and where and why." Because many of you have expressed this concern, the Missions Council has prepared material for groups to study, in six sessions, under the title, "Your Church and the World Task."

Each church will, of course, want to make its own plan as to when to use this course during the church year. Many of you will think of more convenient and significant times than those suggested in the Introduction. Already we have heard from groups of laymen who will follow the study during a series of luncheon meetings; from Women's Fellowships who will meet in their respective neighborhoods for morning coffee hours with their study; from adults who will follow the course in a series of Sun-

day morning periods; the important thing is to *have* the course and use it, and as early in the church year as possible.

It is very important that the leader of the course in your church send *immediately* to your nearest Missions Council office for the Leader's Packet. He will undoubtedly want to add materials and data all his own, but the packet does contain basic material for each of the six sessions. Only by having it on hand *early* can adequate preparation be made.

We feel sure all of you will want to coöperate with us by mailing in the Courtesy Report referred to in the Introduction, and printed on page 31, immediately upon the close of your course. We are really depending upon you for this coöperation, and will greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely yours,

IONE CATTON

HAVE YOU SEEN
the
EVERY MEMBER CANVASS WORK BOOK
FOR 1953-1954?

Very complete and helpful as to Motives, Methods
and Materials

ONE WENT TO YOUR PASTOR, FREE

Order more at 25 cents per copy

YOUR CHURCH AND THE WORLD TASK

A six-session study course
for Congregational Christian churches

INTRODUCTION

Why this course.

It is easy to take churchmanship for granted. Many members of our own Fellowship have forgotten what once they learned, or have not kept informed, about the purpose and work of this Christian Family with whom they united; or else they have come to us from other Protestant Fellowships and never knew about our own.

Requests have come from many of our churches for a simple, brief study course interpreting the work of our Congregational Christian churches at home and abroad—in other words, *Our Christian World Mission*. They want to know *what* we are doing to spread the Christian faith, *how* we are doing it, *where*, and *through what means*. New members are asking for this, and members of long standing, and pastors who want to help them.

The Missions Council provides

This plan and procedure for such a course, in outline only.

A Packet of materials for the leader, containing background facts and data which should be adequate for six sessions of 1½ or 2 hours each. (Price 25 cents)

Note: Starred items in materials suggested for each session may be secured from your nearest Missions Council office (14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass.; 287 Fourth Ave., New York City 10; 19 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Ill.) In most cases they are in the Packet.

A Bibliography for further resources for the leader or follow-up study and reading by individuals or groups. This is included under each session.

This course is planned for use in

A Study Group, meeting once each week for six consecutive weeks, but, churches may prefer to use it in—

Schools of Missions or Institutes meeting for an intensive period of several days or a week.

Summer Conferences.

A series of Church Night programs.

To the Leader.

1. If you will read the course through several times well in advance, it will help you to have the whole course in mind as one united work.
2. Study the packet of materials well in advance, and order any additional copies you may need.
3. As the course proceeds, assign members of your group to assist you in making reports, and get the material to them well in advance.

As with any such course, the success of the enterprise is largely in the hands of the leader. The accompanying materials contain facts, materials, statistics, the more-or-less lifeless printed word. They may seem meager in number and amount. But, they are the leader's starting point. He himself, we assume, is reading, learning, growing in his concept of the world Mission of the Church, and will constantly supplement with his own knowledge and experience the facts and statements in the attached materials.

To deal in six brief sessions with so large a subject as the total work of our Congregational Christian churches across our own nation and around the world, and with the way in which our Fellowship is organized to carry forward this task, in coöperation with sister churches, must mean condensing greatly the material to be presented. The attached outline has been prepared with this in mind. It provides only a skeleton framework. There is probably more suggested for each session than can be used.

Make your own selection. The hope is that any study group thus introduced to the living story of Our Christian World Mission will want to continue with further study as individuals or as a group.

Make this story live for your group. Make them literate about their own work, for Our Christian World Mission is placed in the hands of us all—your church and every church in our Fellowship—no one of us excepted.

Will you help us?

This course is being used experimentally for a time. Our hope is to develop and improve it to provide its maximum helpfulness to our churches. Will you, PLEASE, *within a week after the course closes*, fill out and mail the enclosed COURTESY REPORT to:

Miss Ione Catton

Missions Council of Congregational Christian Churches
19 So. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Illinois

The more of these reports we receive, the more rapidly and adequately can we prepare for inquiring churches the guidance they want in this important enterprise.

The Missions Council extends warm greetings to any group in our Fellowship adopting this plan for making itself more fully acquainted with the great Mission of the World Church, through its own local fellowship, to our world.

SESSION I: MY CHURCH THE WORLD CHURCH HERE

A Basis for Thinking.

The greatest single event of the present century is the emergence of The World Christian Community, says Charles W. Ranson (in substance) in his compelling book, *That The World May Know*. That the world is one and the mission of the church to the world indivisible, the thoughtful Christian is coming to understand. This gives new meaning and definition to many traditional words and terms.

"Ecumenical" (world-wide church) is not something big *outside* my own group, but is a spirit and an action *within* my group. It starts where I am.

The Church's "Mission" is not a vague, far-away movement, but starts with my own church. The Church *is* the Mission—the truth and the way and the life of it.

The World Council of Churches, whose first assembly met in Amsterdam in 1948, sent out its greeting "to all who are in Christ." This meant that 700 million persons over the world might hear or read these words:

"We all believe that the Church is God's gift to men for the salvation of the world . . . we believe that the Church has a vocation to worship God in His holiness, to proclaim the Gospel to every creature. . . . She has been set apart . . . to live for the service of all mankind." *Your church, my church*, has been so set apart.

In this first session of a six-session course on Our Christian World Mission, begin with the world-wide church fellowship here in your local church. As leader of a study group, you have in this first session an opportunity to help your group:

- a. To see the world scope and world Task of The Church of Jesus Christ.
- b. To see your own church fellowship as the world-wide Christian fellowship at work and worship *where you are*.

MATERIALS SUGGESTED FOR LEADER'S USE:

Bibles.

Catalog of Audio-Visual Aids (select for any session).

*Here's The Story.

*Alert for 1953—The National Council of Churches.

*What is The World Council of Churches Doing?

*12 Point Standard for Missions in the Local Church. Pts. 1, 2, 3, 4.

*Helps to Understanding.

Bibliography for further sources:

That The World May Know, Charles W. Ranson, Pilgrim Press—\$1.25.

Where There Is Life, Leslie C. Sayre, Pilgrim Press—\$1.00.

*Into All The World—50 cents. (Not in Packet)

*Summer 1953 issue of ENVELOPE SERIES, "The Church Around the World"—15 cents.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

1. **Acquaintance period.** Although the group may be members of your own church fellowship, take a short time for informal sharing as to: how long (if at all) they have been members of a Christian Church; their denominational backgrounds; their interest in world affairs outside the church; their testimony as to the influence of the church, past and present, in their own living; their knowledge of the purpose and power of the church in the world.
2. **Leader's introduction.** In words of your own, share with the group your vision and conviction of the mission and power of the Christian Church in the world, and cite a few statistics showing its scope and spread. For instance, do the people of your church know that in the so-called "undeveloped" areas of the world, there are already 120,000 village churches with 12 million members; that last year 3,000 village youth attended 250 Rural Gospel Schools in Japan, where the

course included farming methods and problems in Christian living; that the World Day of Prayer was observed in 1952 in 105 countries, hour by hour circling the globe? Work out a definition of a local church, not as a building, but as a fellowship centered in a common faith and purpose. The common denominator in local church and world church may be pointed out in such aspects as:

- a. The power of a minority group with a dynamic faith:
Your church working in your community.
Churches all over the world influencing by example the world neighborhood that it may become a world community.
 - b. Providing leaders for the Church's mission:
Your church's contribution in terms of lay leaders, clergy, missionaries.
The world-wide need of Christian leaders.
 - c. The power of prayer in the Church's mission:
Intercessory prayer a practice in your church.
700 million Christians praying for a peaceful world.
 - d. Money for the Church's mission:
Your church's goal for Our Christian World Mission.
Our total Fellowship's goal—\$6,280,000.
3. **Check Your Own Church Program** (using the 12-Point Standard, points 1-4). Allowing ten points to each item, look at the progress and activities of your church in the following areas, checking what you think your church rates in each, the total possible score being 100. (See following page)

	<i>Score</i>
(1) * A standing, representative, functioning church Committee on missionary education and stewardship (men and women)	_____
(2) Programs on our world-wide mission in every organized group: men, women, youth, children	_____
(3) Annually sending delegates to mission schools or institutes, or holding such in your own church	_____
(4) "Literacy" of your membership about Our Christian World Mission	_____
(5) Lining up with your Conference in its participation in Our Christian World Mission	_____
(6) Several youth entering full-time church vocations in the past five years	_____
(7) At least half your church membership following a definite stewardship plan	_____
(8) A visit to your church during the past year of a representative of the Church's wider mission	_____
(9) Frequent use of audio-visual aids describing units of Our Christian World Mission at work	_____
(10) Every member giving to Our Christian World Mission	_____
TOTAL SCORE	_____

* Your committee may have a different name.

4. **Forum discussion.**

- a. Are we, the world church at work here, adequately informed about our task? Convinced about our faith? Active as part of the world mission?
- b. How can we help our own church fellowship to grow in these important experiences?
- c. What have we to do about this as individual Christians?

5. **Group Worship.**

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-13; 44:1-8.

Prayers: for that mind in us that was in Christ Jesus—the world-encompassing mind, the obedient mind, the open mind; for your own church fellowship in its effort to grow and to serve; for the fellowship of disciples around the world; for all people not yet within this fellowship.

SESSION II: AT WORK IN THE HOMELAND

(through our Conferences and The Board of Home Missions)

A Basis for Thinking.

We look at our own land. We see its vast and varied beauty, its rapid progress in a machine age, its enormous resources, its free people. In this session, we take another look. We see its desperate need, the conflicts and prejudices and divisions and sufferings within our own borders. And we know that the church has an immediate and impelling mission to this land. *Our nation is a mission field.*

To help your group to see this Mission already at work through our own Congregational Christian fellowship, as part of the all-Protestant endeavor, is a chief objective of this session. Especially, to help them see their own Conference and The Board of Home Missions as channels through which every local church can participate in our common effort to spread the Christian gospel through our own land and its possessions, and to strengthen already existing churches.

MATERIALS SUGGESTED FOR LEADER'S USE:

Bibles.

*Here's The Story.

The Conference report is available from your Conference office.

*At Work in the Homeland.

*A Map Study of the ministries of The Board of Home Missions.

Current issues of: *Advance, Facts From The Field.*

*Biennial report, The Board of Home Missions.

Bibliography for further sources:

*Into All The World—50 cents. (Not in Packet)

Mission to America—Truman B. Douglass (published by Friendship Press)—Pilgrim Press, \$1.25.

Your Conference paper.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

1. **Begin with three or four very brief stories** or sketches describing the united work of our Congregational Christian churches in your own Conference, e.g.: Youth Camps or Conference centers, parishes of promise. Send to your Conference office for the latest report of its work. Use copies of your Conference paper, if any.
2. **Now add half a dozen similar stories** describing the united work of our churches in this land, through The Board of Home Missions, e.g.: one of our A.M.A. colleges in the Southland, our crusade for the building of new churches, one of our Community Centers, our Student Summer Service program.
(*Note:* Members of the group who have visited some units of our work in Conference or nation, or studied about them, will enjoy participating in 1 and 2.)
3. As each story or description is given, the leader may **list it on a blackboard**, putting it under the proper agency, e.g.: A.M.A. schools, Church Extension and Evangelism. Also, locating the

units of work on the map, where localized, will help. (See—
At Work in the Homeland.)

4. **A resumé**, in the leader's own words, with possibly a few quotations, of *the introduction to the latest Biennial Report of The Board of Home Missions*. (The title of the 1951-52 report is BUILDERS, and the introduction found in pages 7-15.)

5. **Study together AT WORK IN THE HOMELAND**, the leader explaining where necessary.

Note the work we all do together in:

- a. Teaching for Christian living.
- b. Evangelism and the extension of the Church.
- c. Recruiting and training for leadership.
- d. Our ministry of healing.
- e. Work with minority groups.
- f. Ministerial relief.
- g. Publication.

Discuss the need for and values of each.

6. **Question and discussion period**, directed by leader, including some of the following and others suggested by the group:

- a. Quiz on facts: (See answers on following page)
 - (1) Name 3 types or centers of our work among minority groups in this land.
 - (2) What are we doing to extend the Church's ministry across this nation?
 - (3) What is our work in caring for aged ministers and their families?
 - (4) What materials do we publish and through what Press?
 - (5) What parts or units of this work are centered in your own Conference?
 - (6) What financial responsibility does your church take in our common task?

Answers:

- (1) Six colleges for Negro youth in the South.
The Fort Berthold Indian Mission in North Dakota.
Human Relations Institutes.
- (2) e.g., our Church Building Fund Campaign is a movement to provide 4½ million dollars for new churches in the U. S. A.
- (3) The Ministerial Relief Division of The Board of Home Missions secures, manages and distributes funds affording some measure of security to the ministry of our churches through grants to aged or disabled ministers and their widows and orphans.
- (4) The Pilgrim Press publishes the curricula for the teaching work of our churches, our hymnals, devotional guides, books and other helps for clergy and laymen.
- (5) Consult your Conference office.
- (6) Your apportionment giving for last year to Our Christian World Mission will answer this question.

b. Questions for thought:

What human needs demand a united effort by our Fellowship?

What is the value of the working of our Fellowship through Conferences and Associations?

What is the value of working through city or county or state Council of Churches?

How does The Board of Home Missions and every local church need and depend upon each other in the building of a Christian nation?

What are some of the unmet needs of people in our land, which our churches can help to meet? (Mention such items as: access to an adequate church for every family; freedom from racial discrimination; decent housing.)

c. **Suggestions for action:**

How can this study group help your own church to become an informed parish in terms of Our Christian World Mission in your own country?

What part of this responsibility shall be assumed by your local Committee on Missionary Education and Stewardship? (See 12 Point Standard)

What can each group or organization in your church do in its regular meetings and programs to strengthen knowledge and interest in this part of our work?

What can each member of this group do?

Why not plan a group-excursion to your Conference office, to confer with superintendent or staff about the work in your area?

7. Group Worship:

Scripture: Deut. 29:10-16, 22-29; I Cor. 3:10-16.

Prayers: for our country, for the whole fellowship of our churches, for your own church as an earnest, active part of this fellowship, for yourself as a servant of God.

SESSION III: CITIZENSHIP IN NATION AND WORLD

(under guidance of our Council for Social Action)

"This Council shall be the agency of the Congregational Christian churches for helping to make the Christian gospel more effective in society, national and world-wide, through research, education and action . . ." (General Council By-Laws).

A Basis for Thinking.

One of the most important responsibilities of any teacher in the Teaching Church is to help growing Christians to see Christian discipleship in terms of the practical duties and opportunities of Christian citizenship. It is often one of the most difficult responsibilities a teacher must take. The Council for Social Action in our fellowship is hard at work keeping us informed

about conditions in our nation and world needing the united voice and arm of our churches—to speak to and act in these conditions as the Christian Church must speak and act.

In this session you, as leader, have a threefold opportunity of unusual importance:

1. To help your group to understand Christian citizenship and Christian social action as an essential part of discipleship and of church membership.
2. To give a simple, clear, positive interpretation of the Christian purpose and important work of our Council for Social Action.
3. To help your group plan definite steps your church can take in Christian social action in your own community and in our nation.

MATERIALS SUGGESTED FOR LEADER'S USE:

Bibles.

*Here's The Story.

*What is The Council for Social Action?

*The Christian Basis for Social Action.

The United Nations—Facts and Fallacies.

*Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

*Available for 1953-54—a list of Social Action materials.

Bibliography for further sources:

**Tool Chest* for organization and program of Social Action in the churches—25 cents. (Not in Packet)

Social Action (Subscribe through C.S.A., 289 4th Ave., New York City)—\$1.50 per year.

Christian Community (Order from C.S.A.)—2 cents per copy.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

1. A small "panel" group, with the leader of the course as chairman, discuss together *The Christian Basis for Social Action*. The Scripture suggested for this session may be used here.

Discussion from the floor may follow.

2. **Six brief reports** by members of the group (previously assigned), each citing *one* or *two* activities of the Council for Social Action, in one of these specific fields:

- a. Agricultural "Missions" in the U. S. A. (e.g.: one of the conferences at Merom Institute for farmers of the area).
- b. International relationships (e.g.: work with foreign students; one of the U. S. Seminars).
- c. Race and cultural relationships (e.g.: one of the Human Relations Round Tables; one of the summer Institutes in Human Relations).
- d. Work toward more Christian legislation (e.g.: information supplied to our churches by the C.S.A. concerning pending legislation; one of the Washington Seminars).
- e. Industrial relationships (e.g.: one of the Community Self Surveys already completed, noting results).
- f. Helps to understanding through the printed page. (See Bibliography*)

3. **Question and discussion period:**

- a. Quiz on facts:

Name some ways in which the C.S.A. helps individual church members to keep informed on important social issues.

How are we working with minority groups in the U. S. A.?

- b. Questions for thought:

How does the Christian Gospel point every disciple to Christian Social Action?

How is the C.S.A. helping our Fellowship to work for better understanding between conflict groups (including those in our own fellowship who constitute themselves a strong minority group trying to eliminate the C.S.A.)?

Is the Christian Church having an influence in the thinking and work of The United Nations? If so, how? Please write for free literature describing the work of the:

1. Commission of the churches on International Affairs (to World Council of Churches);
2. International Missionary Council (to 156 Fifth Ave., New York).

What difference should being a Christian make in an individual's procedure as a voter?

What is your judgment about the church's responsibility toward civil rights?

c. Suggestions for action:

What shall this study group do to keep our whole parish informed about important social issues?

How can we plan to have our church represented in such important opportunities as: Institute on Human Relations, Round Tables, Washington or U. S. Seminars?

4. **Group Worship:**

Scripture: Amos 8; Lam. 1:12; Ex. 20:13; Gen. 4:9-10; Mal. 2:10; Amos 2:6; Lev. 25:10; Matt. 22:39; Luke 4:18; Gal. 6:2; II Cor. 3:17-b.

Prayers: Thanking God for the light of peace and justice in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ; praying for this light and justice *in* and *through* his church; dedicating the lives and churchmanship of your group to peace on earth, good will among men.

SESSION IV: BEYOND OUR OWN BORDERS

(working together through The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions)

A Basis for Thinking.

"The American Board, founded in 1810, is yours. It would be glad to answer your questions about its work. It would be glad to acquaint you with its opportunities for service overseas, and with the materials available which tell more of what it is doing in various areas. The members of its Prudential Committee are eager for your opinions, ideas, coöperation. And 350 missionaries, 9,000 national Christian leaders—working in strategic areas throughout our world—are eager for your prayers, your concern, your support." (From The American Board, a Five Minute Survey)

It is a high privilege to help a group of people in any Christian church to think and live and act in terms of The Church's World Wide Mission. This session will be all too brief for your group, under your guidance as leader, to see more clearly the world sweep and scope of the work even our own Congregational Christian fellowship is doing in the 14 countries where we serve. This is a glowing, growing picture. You can make it come to life beyond statistics or places on the map. Make the needs real, the people human, the work dynamic, your church's part in it a daily necessity.

MATERIALS SUGGESTED FOR LEADER'S USE:

Bibles.

*Here's The Story.

*Annual Report to the Churches (142nd)—American Board.

*The American Board—A Five Minute Survey.

*Our Congregational Christian Outreach around the world (small map with countries listed).

World map, if available.

Bibliography for further sources:

**Letter of the month* (from missionaries)—\$1.00 per year.
(Not in Packet)

*Voices from the Churches Overseas—15 cents.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

1. **Begin with four or five very brief stories** of persons or work going on in other lands under the direction of our American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (hereinafter referred to as The American Board). Some members of your group may have met or heard one or more of our missionaries on furlough, or made a study of certain units of our work in a given country, or visited these centers. You as leader will add a few stories. (Send for May, 1953 News Bulletin of American Board, 14 Beacon St., Boston. It contains four biographies of Indian Christians.)
2. **Map Study.** Turn to wall map or smaller map-chart. Study together the geographical spread and functional services of our Mission in these 14 countries, the numbers of personnel engaged by our churches for this Mission, the types of service they render.
3. **In your own words**, give a brief statement of:
 - a. Location of our work by countries and missions. (See Note following)
 - b. Needs requiring our work in these places.
 - c. Types of work in operation (e.g.: evangelism, literacy, agriculture).
 - d. Training and recruiting leaders for various types of service overseas.
 - e. Some visible results to date of service rendered.
 - f. Present problems and unmet needs.

NOTE:

Countries: Ceylon, France, Greece, India, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Micronesia, Philippine Islands, Southern Rhode-

sia, Syria, Turkey, Union of South Africa, Angola (Portuguese West Africa).

Missions: Angola, Europe, India (3 missions including Ceylon), Japan, Mexico, Micronesia, Near East, Philippine Islands, Rhodesia, South Africa.

4. **Leader's interpretation** (in your own words) of the message to the churches of Dr. David McKeith, Jr., Executive Vice-President of The American Board, as given in the 142nd Annual Report, pages 6 and 7. Mention that although we now have fewer missionaries than we had fifteen years ago, the number of Nationals has increased tremendously. It is part of the policy of The American Board to bring national leaders into effective service.
5. **Question and discussion period**, directed by leader, including some of the following and others suggested by the group:
 - a. **Quiz on facts:**
 - Name as many as you can of the countries where our fellowship is at work through Our Christian World Mission.
 - Name four types of work carried on by our missionaries in other lands.
 - Why is it necessary for our churches to maintain some hospitals and clinics in these lands?
 - How many missionaries do we have at work overseas?
 - Why only about a third as many now as we had before World War I?
 - b. **Questions for thought:**
 - What needs of people in our world demand this work on our part?
 - Through this work, what is the Church saying to the suffering people of the world?
 - Why should and do we work coöperatively with other Protestant groups in several other countries?

What new world developments point the way for our mission to other countries in the future?

Why and how must The American Board and every local church work together to give Christian answers to the world's need, and find leaders for the task?

c. Suggestions for action:

How can this study group help your own church to become an informed parish in terms of Our Christian World Mission in other lands?

What part of this responsibility shall be assumed by your church Committee on Missionary Education and Stewardship?

When and how will you look at your church's goal for Our Christian World Mission in terms of the help you are giving toward making the world more Christian?

What can each group and organization in your church do in its regular meetings and programs to strengthen knowledge and interest in this part of our work?

What can each member of this group do?

6. Group Worship:

Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matt. 10:5-23.

Prayers: for the suffering, seeking peoples of every race and nation; for the work of our church fellowship for and with them; for your own church's part in this world-wide opportunity.

**SESSION V: THE CHRISTIAN MISSION OF RELIEF
AND RECONSTRUCTION**

A Basis for Thinking.

Every Christian must surely carry a deep concern for people all over the world suffering from the ravages of war, from poverty, hunger, disease, oppression. The Church could not be Christian without putting this concern into action.

Fortunately, our Fellowship provides channels for our concern and service for these suffering ones.

The Congregational Christian Service Committee, a department of The American Board, is our means for meeting emergencies around the world. In keeping with the changing picture of the world's needs, the Committee's programs vary from year to year. In 1952, its ninth year, the Committee was at work in seven countries outside the U. S. A.

The work in relief and reconstruction may well be presented in three parts:

1. **Denominational.** At the headquarters of the Congregational Christian Service Committee (110 E. 29th St., New York City) is administered the denomination's resettlement program for nearly 4,000 displaced persons. In this it has co-operated with Church World Service and has had the devoted coöperation of our churches and Conference offices all across the country. In the hostel at the Service Center, its latest annual report shows more than 4,200 lodgings for the night for people from 21 countries and nearly a dozen denominations. From the warehouse were shipped 90,873 lbs. of clothing, food and other supplies with an estimated value of \$106,841.00. Its overseas program includes a six-year assistance project in the reconstruction of Congregational church life in England; scholarships were provided for students in the College Cevenol in France; in Germany, Italy, Greece and Lebanon special services suited to the specific needs of the country have been carried on.
2. **Interdenominational.** Our chief channel of assistance here is Church World Service, a part of the National Council of Churches. This Service has sponsored One Great Hour of Sharing and an enormous Material Aid program.
3. **Ecumenical.** Here our ministry is channeled chiefly through the World Council of Churches. The refugee population of the world is estimated at 30 million.

4. **Other ministries.** Gifts are also received and transmitted to a number of other causes and the apportionment credit was given to churches upon request. These included: American Bible Society, CARE, CROP, Japan International Christian University, Kansas Flood Relief, and College Cevenol, France.

MATERIALS SUGGESTED FOR LEADER'S USE:

Bibles.

*American Board's 142nd Annual Report to the Churches, pp. 36-39.

*Here's The Story.

*Facts from the Field.

*Relief and Reconstruction in Our Christian World Mission.
Send Food and Faith through CROP.

*Congregational Christian Service Committee Report.

*Report from Korea.

*Christian Agility.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

1. **Resumé** of the work of your own church over the past few years in sharing the service our Fellowship renders through food boxes, clothing, One Great Hour of Sharing, sending youth to work-camps.
2. **Reports** (previously assigned) of work now going forward under the direction of The Congregational Christian Service Committee in:

- | | | |
|------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| a. Italy | f. Spain | j. Service Center |
| b. Greece | g. India | k. Completed work among |
| c. Lebanon | h. Work-camps | displaced persons |
| d. France | i. New York City | l. New projects: Korea and |
| e. Germany | Warehouse | Hongkong |

Members of this group will enjoy giving examples, from their own observation and experience, of churches at work or individual members participating in some of these projects.

3. **Reports** (previously assigned) of types of ministry going forward:

- a. Work among refugees.
- b. Reconstruction and self-help (e.g.: Fort Berthold, North Dakota and work-camps at home and abroad).
- c. Direct relief.

4. **Question and discussion period:**

a. Quiz on facts:

In how many and what countries outside the U. S. A. is our program of Relief and Reconstruction at work?
(See *Reports* above)

In what ways does much of this program pass beyond a "dole" system to the more positive pattern of helping people to help themselves? (e.g.: Projects in Work-camps)

What kinds of work do the work-camps undertake?

What and when is One Great Hour of Sharing?

What is Church World Service? What is the difference between this and our Service Committee?

What is the purpose and what the activities of our Service Center at 110 E. 29th St., New York City?

b. Questions for thought:

Why must part of our work in relief and reconstruction be an interdenominational Protestant program?

What purpose has this program beyond bringing physical and material relief to suffering people?

How does this program suggest the need for the practice of Christian stewardship by every church member?

How does this program expand our horizons and help us to become world citizens?

c. Suggestions for action:

How can this study group help your own church to become thoroughly informed about this part of Our Christian World Mission?

What recommendations will you make concerning this to your church Committee on Missionary Education and Stewardship?

What is the relation of the refugee problem to the problem of Communism in Germany, India, Korea, etc. (while our ministry of Relief and Reconstruction is really fighting the battle against Communism at the front lines, our motives are rooted far more deeply)? "It is the love of Christ that constraineth us," and not our hatred of Communism. So, an unselfish witness to Christ, through the ministries of Relief and Reconstruction, is one of the most effect weapons against Communist aggression.

What difference should increased knowledge of this program make in setting your church's goal for Our Christian World Mission this year?

What steps can your church take toward doing a better job this year in "One Great Hour of Sharing"?

5. **Group Worship:**

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 4:14-20.

Prayers: for eyes to see and hearts to care for our suffering world; thanksgiving for opportunities to help through the life of our churches; re-dedication to a larger sharing; petition for the power of the living Christ to be at work among these our brothers far beyond what our own labors can achieve.

SESSION VI: OUR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

A Basis for Thinking.

In this final session let your group see our own denominational fellowship as part of the world fellowship of Christians. Let them see that organization into Boards and agencies is not first or most vital, but that *organization is necessary* that the message may be understood and spread, the service rendered, the mission fulfilled. And help them to see the equal value and importance and challenge of every level of service, every task that is a part of the Mission, whether at home or overseas, local or state or national, rural or urban. Close the study course on a high level of understanding and joy and commitment.

MATERIALS SUGGESTED FOR LEADER'S USE:

Bibles.

*Understanding Ourselves (short historical outline).

*Immortal Money.

*The Fine Art of Giving.

*One Man's Answer.

*What is Stewardship?

Review of any or all other materials used in course.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE:

1. **Brief fact-finding period.** This may be an informal sharing by the group of what they have actually learned through this course about the life and task of the Christian Church and of our own denominational fellowship at home and abroad. The leader may like to plan a list of questions to guide this sharing. Be sure the aggregate contributions of the group give a quite adequate picture of the total work of Our Christian World Mission.
2. **Study and analysis** of the organization through which our denominational fellowship seeks to direct and further our

mission (this requires reference to *Understanding Ourselves*). Many leaders may prefer to omit name and details, calling attention only to the major headings. However, the clearer the picture, the better. Be sure to include the relation of your own Conference to this picture.

3. **Brief testimonial period.** Another informal sharing by group members as to how their own knowledge, convictions, attitudes or intentions in terms of the Church and its mission have been changed through the opportunity of this course.
4. **Recommendations.** Let the group prepare a list of recommendations for changes in the life and program of your own church, suggesting to which persons or groups these recommendations shall be made. This should take considerable thought and time.
5. **Group Worship:**
Scripture: Rev. 22:1-5. Repeat some Scripture used in Sessions I-V.
Prayers: A service of thanksgiving and commitment.

COURTESY REPORT

of the study course

YOUR CHURCH AND THE WORLD TASK

(OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD MISSION)

(Please mail within one week of close of course)

Name of Church Pastor

Street No. or R. F. D. Zone

City or Town State Conference

Dates of Holding course Number enrolled

Was this course held (check which) in a School of Missions, Missions Institute, Summer Conference, Series of church night programs, or once a week for six weeks

What evidences did you have of the interest of your group in the subject? Check any of the following which may already have grown out of the course:

Plan for further study by group or individuals..... .

Offer of any members of group for service in church or community

Recommendations of group to church or missions committee

Plans for stewardship practices adopted

Plans for larger giving by church or individuals

How do you think the outline and materials offered for such a course could be improved?

Signed *Leader*

The Missions Council thanks you for this coöperation.

Please mail to: MISS IONE CATTON

Missions Council of Congregational Christian Churches

19 S. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Illinois